# CANADA AS A CAREER

L. HADEN GUEST

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BRITISH SETTLERS IN WESTERN CANADA
AND THEIR NEW HOME

[*Frontispiece*

# CANADA AS A CAREER

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# CANADA AS A CAREER

## CHAPTER I

### CANADA AS A CAREER

The object of this little book is to give information as to the kind of career and the kind of life that is open to the Britisher, and particularly the young Britisher, in Canada. This self-governing Dominion, only a week's journey from England, offers prospects to a very large number of people which nothing in Great Britain or Europe can afford. But, of course, these opportunities are not all to be seen at first glance, and, indeed, if they were they would not long remain open. It is easy to go to Canada ; the kind of life is one with which British people are familiar ; the speech is English, and it is easy to revisit Great Britain from Canada. Indeed, the recent organisation of a " Tourist Third " steamship service from Canada to England, and from England to Canada, makes it as easy and cheap to visit Canada or revisit England as it is to take a tour on the Continent. As far as Canada is concerned, it ought to be practically possible for any of us to

feel that in going there we are only going to another part of our homeland.

The opportunities in Canada are first of all upon the land. There is still some free land available, and a large area of very cheap land to be obtained from the Government or from one of the main railway companies—the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Canadian National Railway. There are, in addition, very large undeveloped mineral resources. And there are all the countless opportunities which arise in a young and growing country where the population is increasing and where new enterprises are being organised.

Canada is larger in area than the United States, but, while the States have a population of over one hundred millions, Canada has a population of less than ten millions. The wealth of the United States is nowadays almost fabulous; industries are booming, taxation is at a low level, wages are very high. And while the standard of life in Canada is not so high in material measures as that in the States, it is much higher than that in Great Britain. Also the door of Canada is wide open to the British citizen, whereas the door of the United States only admits a very strictly regulated number of British citizens each year, according to the number fixed by the " quota."

To the man or woman with go and initiative, Canada, as a land in the making, offers most attractive prizes. Even to the man or woman

without capital there is at present the very cheap two-pounds migration scheme, with a job guaranteed. But no one need remain without capital in Canada. Apart from Government land, there is other privately-owned land to be purchased on easy terms out of income. And to a man with any " pep " numerous other opportunities present themselves for him to earn good money and save out of his earnings. Unfortunately, the development of life in Great Britain in recent years has made it very difficult for many people to get out of a very narrow groove. And men and women in a groove do not get on well unless they are provided by someone else with a job to do. But Canada is not like that. Canada expects a man to go for what he wants and get it. This is not an edition of the works of the late Mr. Samuel Smiles or of *Self-Help* up to date, but it is necessary to say that Canada needs men and women who are independent and self-reliant—who take what they legitimately can, of course, in the way of Government help and assistance with training, but who do not either expect to be spoon-fed or want it.

*Is the Pioneer Needed?*

Even at the present day there are opportunities for the pioneer who is willing to face hardship and danger in the spirit of adventure. The story of the Klondike goldfield is not likely to

be the last chapter of human endurance and romance. But for the most part the sterner pioneer virtues are not required in Canada, although the work on farms is as hard and toilsome as work on farms in this country. But it is better paid in wages, and infinitely better paid in future prospects.

The average farm labourer in this country has a very remote chance of himself becoming a tenant-farmer, and still less of becoming an owner-farmer. But the average farm labourer in Canada has every chance of becoming an owner of a farm, and of becoming a prosperous and substantial, or even a rich, man. And the Canadian farmer's life has its compensations. Canadian life is both freer and at a higher level of material prosperity than that in Great Britain. Sometimes the prospect of a Canadian winter scares the prospective settler with a vision of terrible cold. But the Canadian winter is one of its jolliest seasons, and much looked forward to; an active outdoor sporting life is within reach of everyone, but many western Canadian farmers who don't care for this kind of thing spend their winters in the sunny climes of California holidaying in a climate more delightful than that of the French Riviera.

### *Advantages of Climate*

It is not intended to convey the impression that the only alternatives before a Canadian farmer in

the winter are either winter sports like those in Switzerland, or basking in sunshine and warmth like that of the Riviera in France. For most farmers, and certainly for farmers before they have established their financial position, life is more severe than that, and more like the ordinary life on a farm in this country. But it is intended to convey what is the truth—that the pleasures and amusements of life are more easily accessible to farmers or farm workers in Canada than in Great Britain. The life of the country-side in Great Britain is still a very narrow one, and the standard of life of most of those who work on farms is a low one. Wages of agricultural labourers do not allow any margin for anything very much in the way of holidays or amusements. And then there are the class differences in Great Britain. The whole of England seems to be brooded over by the ghost of the feudal system. The squire and the parson persist, the respectful tugging of the forelock and the bobbing curtsey are still part of the picturesque incidents in the life of underpaid farm servants. Well, these picturesque incidents don't happen in Canada! Men are better paid; there is greater social equality and greater equality of opportunity. The child of a labourer in Great Britain will almost certainly be a labourer or a manual worker in industry in a town. The child of a labourer in Canada will be exactly what he is fitted for on his own merits

—a labourer, a professional man, a skilled mechanic (locomotive engine-drivers in Canada receive up to £600 or £700 a year in wages), a business man, a farmer, or a capitalist.

*What is Canada Like?*

Before considering some of the openings in Canada in greater detail let us consider what the country itself is like. Firstly, it is a very big country. To cross the country from Quebec, on the St. Lawrence River, to Victoria, on Vancouver Island, the capital of British Columbia on the Pacific Ocean, is a journey of four days and four nights in a quick train. It takes longer to go from Quebec to Victoria than from London to Constantinople. To go from Quebec to the eastern boundary of the country takes about one day and one night—rather longer, that is, than it takes to go from London to Berlin. To travel from north to south of the country is in many places an affair of weeks, if not months, because neither railways, nor roads, nor tracks exist in many parts of the north, where the land and forest are as untouched as when Columbus came to America hundreds of years ago. And, just to get an idea of its possibilities of supporting a large population, note that Canada is more than twice as big as India, which has a population of over three hundred million, and it is about

one-sixth bigger than Australia, and is bigger than the United States, including Alaska.

The part of Canada which has been settled for the longest period is in the east of the country; the Prairie Provinces are those most recently settled; while, in the west, British Columbia became a British colony less than a hundred years ago.

Canada is, however, not only a very big country; it is a very beautiful country. It is so delightful, in fact, that its third largest industry is concerned with the tourist traffic which comes every year in increasing volume, and chiefly from the United States. Hundreds of thousands of motor-cars cross its frontiers from the States every year, and hundreds of thousands of tourists spend holidays by its seashore or its lakes and rivers, in its forests or in its mountains. The cities of Canada are worthy of their country, and its hotels are among the best in the world. In fact, some of the largest hotels in the British Empire are in Canada—one at Vancouver, the other in Montreal—and the most beautiful hotel in the British Empire is probably the Château Frontenac at Quebec.

For all its small population, Canada is not a land of small villages and isolated shacks, but a land of great cities, with certain parts relatively well populated and a vast area with very little population. British Columbia is fairly closely

settled, but the Prairie Provinces have a scattered population, and there are also empty areas in the north.

*The Canadian Cities*

Many of the Canadian cities are really beautiful. Quebec, the centre of the French colonial influence, is old enough to be romantic as well as being beautifully situated, and the mixture of the old French influence and modern Canadian influence makes a piquant combination. In the religious shrines in and near the city there is a suggestion of Brittany, and from this one can turn abruptly to the cafeterias (self-service restaurants), soda fountains, and beauty parlours, which are characteristically U.S.A. Montreal is a cosmopolitan city, modern and progressive, with its big hotels, vast docks, and grain elevators, beautiful wide streets and large shops. This city combines the French and English influences in Canada, and its parks and pleasure-grounds, theatres, cinemas, concert-halls, and clubs, make it a very pleasant city to live in. At Montreal also is the McGill University, one of the finest universities in the world, and with a front-rank reputation. Montreal has always been very prominent in educational advance, and it had non-sectarian free schools as long ago as 1801. This city is also a centre of art and of artists, its picture galleries being among the best in Canada.

CANADA IS A GOOD PLACE FOR CHILDREN. OFF TO SCHOOL [p. 16

Toronto is an astonishingly English town, and it is very beautifully laid out. A feature which adds to its charm is that fences and walls dividing gardens from the road and from each other are usually absent. It is a real garden city, and enjoys, among other things, such cheap electricity from the Niagara Falls that it is hardly worth while troubling to turn out the lights. It costs less than a dollar a week to light and heat an eight-roomed house.

The Canadian cities are, many of them, old enough to have the charm of ancient days and yet modern enough to be quite up to date. Kingston, for example, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, has the fascination of sixteenth-century towers and the conveniences of modern buildings served with excellent "elevators."

Winnipeg, the wheat town, is, of course, modern —great broad streets, cars and cars and cars everywhere, a wonderful hydro-electric industry, and around it an immensely rich agricultural country.

Another very modern town is Calgary, Alberta, near which is the famous E.P. ranch of the Prince of Wales, and surrounded by land as rich as that in any part of the world, and now the centre of considerable activity.

In the far west, on the Pacific, the approach to Victoria is a sight which cannot be forgotten; surrounded by forest and snow-capped mountains,

the familiar English gorse making a yellow glory in the hills, and the dancing water of the harbour, it is full of the light and strength of the new land, and the town itself is a beautiful and home-like place, full of gardens.

*Is Canada Remote?*

The idea of the remoteness of Canada is a delusion. There are lonely places, and there is pioneering work to be done and fortunes to be won in opening up new country, but the Dominion has all the advantages of an urban civilisation added to the wonderful opportunities of a land whose possibilities are only beginning to be developed.

A story is told of a little child saying his prayers on the night before he left England with his parents. He said his usual petitions, and then added, "Good-bye, God. I'm going to Australia to-morrow."

And perhaps there are some children, and some who are no longer children, who have the same feeling about Canada as well as Australia, or, indeed, about any place outside their own country.

But any such feeling soon vanishes in Canada itself; it is a very pleasant land, where any man or woman of British stock can feel as much at home as he does anywhere outside his own native place. But, what is more, while a career in Great Britain is difficult for all who are not exceptionally lucky

or privileged, a career in Canada is open to the average and ordinary citizen who has got the ordinary ration of health, strength, and common sense, and who means to make good. To the ordinary man Canada offers better chances than this country, because there is still a vast margin of unused land and unexploited natural wealth, and for the man above the average Canada offers everything which one of the richest countries can give to enterprise and initiative.

# CHAPTER II

## WHAT CANADA OFFERS

One of the great differences between Canada and Great Britain lies in the statement of a simple fact. All the land of Great Britain is measured, mapped, and owned; practically all the resources of Great Britain are known, and their exploitation is only available to men with capital. The production of Great Britain from the land shows an unfortunate tendency to decline, while industrial production has great difficulty to hold its own.

And every part of the land is occupied, or under some person's or some public body's control.

The case with Canada is quite different. Some of the country is still unexplored, much of the mineral resources are still unknown, and of those which are known only a part is used. Much land is still available for settlement, and can be purchased at cheap rates on very easy terms of payment spread over long periods, and great natural resources still remain untapped. And the country is in a very active state of development in a way impossible in Great Britain. The application of science to agriculture in Great Britain can and

does improve the yield of the land. But science and capital combined cannot produce the effects in Great Britain that initiative and energy produce in Canada.

*The Wheat Yield*

Take, for example, the yield of wheat. Between 1900 and 1925 the area sown with wheat increased by more than 400 per cent., the total yield of wheat by more than 600 per cent., and the total value of the crop by more than 1,100 per cent. In the cattle industry the increase is not so gigantic, but, although the old-time cattle-ranges are disappearing, the present-day method of rearing beef cattle has increased the number since 1900 by 70 per cent., and the number of head now reaches nine and a half millions. The expansion of the egg and dairy industry is also going on, and has spread to the Prairie Provinces from its original home in Eastern Canada, where it flourishes more than before.

The apple industry, both in Eastern Canada and in the west in British Columbia, is growing in importance. Lumbering, which, with its allied activities, is the second greatest industry after agriculture, is increasing in importance, and there is a great development of pulp and paper mills, with a progressive tendency to transfer the industry of making newsprint paper from the United States into Canadian hands. And the

newspaper industry of the U.S.A. eats up enormous quantities of paper. An American Sunday paper weighs about half a pound, and contains more reading-matter than can be digested by anything but a large family carefully trained for the purpose—at least, that is how it strikes a man from the old country. In fact, U.S.A. papers are most rarely read in the sense a sober Britisher reads his daily sheet; the daily papers are opened, and the headlines are allowed to bark a bit, while the Sunday paper can be used to keep the children quiet with its coloured supplement, the young people sighing with its romantic stories, the boys keenly interested in the latest mechanical marvels, while older people settle down seriously to see life through American newspaper spectacles.

Alternatively, in cold weather one Sunday paper would provide enough covering to keep a whole family warm.

Under these circumstances it seems probable that the demand for newsprint paper from Canadian mills is likely to continue, and even to grow, as, in addition to this gargantuan newspaper consumption, there are just as many uses for paper in North America as in Great Britain. Canadian newsprint paper production now exceeds that of the United States.

Canada's production of pulp and paper in 1925 was valued at over thirty million pounds sterling,

and new pulp and paper enterprises in Ontario have recently been arranged for on a scale that will involve the spending of over sixteen million pounds before the end of 1927. Another great industry now developing rapidly is the use of water power to produce electrical energy—the " white coal " which is more and more supplying, not only light, but power, for industry and for heating and cooking. The present horse power of plants already working is about four million, and this still leaves a large surplus for future development on the most conservative calculation.

It is by use of this cheap electric power that the Aluminium Company of America is establishing a huge industry on the Saguenay, a tributary of the St. Lawrence in the Quebec Province. The capital of this company runs into millions of pounds sterling, and fifty million pounds is expected to be spent in development work. This enterprise will use about 500,000 horse power, and the cheap power is attracting other industries to the district. The raw material for this industry, the aluminium ore bauxite, is to come from the colony of British Guiana.

But the industrial development of Canada is only beginning. New discoveries are constantly being made and new enterprises planned. Six thousand claims have been recently staked on the gold-bearing reef in Northern Quebec; oil is being found in the Turner valley in Alberta, and

there is oil farther north on the border of the Arctic. In British Columbia very rich mineral deposits have been found, and all will be developed in the near future by the use of the cheap electric power available there.

And, with all this, at present the number of persons employed in the manufacturing industry, out of a population of about ten million, is only about eight hundred thousand. The greater part of the Canadian nation is employed on the land, in the forests, or in the fisheries.

Fishing is important, both in the east and in the west, and the total value of it is estimated at about nine million pounds a year, the most valuable part being that in British Columbia. Some of the fish is sold fresh, some dried and salted, and some canned. Canned salmon, canned lobster, and canned herrings make up a very big trade. Twenty-five million pounds of halibut are shipped from Prince Rupert, in British Columbia, every year—a big figure, which enables one to realise why Canada had to have a special halibut treaty with the United States.

How much of the wild life is still left in Canada is well known to the sportsman, who gets excellent shooting in all the provinces, from west to east. And a big effort is being made to preserve and increase the existing small herds of bison, a large number of these almost legendary creatures having been removed to a big reserved area in

EN ROUTE FOR CANADA.

DECK SCENE ON CANADIAN PACIFIC LINER

the north during 1925. But the importance of the wild life of Canada is not a matter for the sportsman only; it is also the basis of a very considerable industry, for the trapping of fur-bearing animals is a trade with an annual value of over three million pounds, and, to off-set the decreasing wild life through extension of settlement northwards, domestic fur farms are increasing yearly.

# CHAPTER III

## THE PROVINCES OF CANADA

The Dominion of Canada is made up of a number of separate provinces, each of which has its own independent Parliament in control of its local affairs, while the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa controls the affairs of Canada as a whole.

From east to west the provinces are: (1) Nova Scotia: (2) Prince Edward Island; (3) New Brunswick; (4) Quebec; (5) Ontario; (6) Manitoba; (7) Saskatchewan; (8) Alberta; (9) British Columbia. In addition to these provinces there is the Yukon Territory, bordering on Alaska, and the North-West Territories, stretching north of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba to the Arctic Circle, and bounded on the east by Hudson's Bay. In the Arctic Ocean itself is Victoria Island and Baffin Island, and Canada claims all the land which extends above its southern base up to the North Pole. Newfoundland is a separate Dominion not connected with, or governed by, Canada in any way, and having a foothold on the mainland in the important fishing coast of Labrador.

*Maritime Provinces*

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick are grouped together, as a rule, and described as the Maritime Provinces; Quebec and Ontario are the Central Provinces; Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta the Prairie Provinces; and British Columbia stands by itself as the Pacific Province.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest province, being only 150 miles long, and varying in breadth from 2 miles to 24, but it is the most densely populated province also, having over 90,000 people. The conditions of life are very much like those found in Great Britain.

Nova Scotia is nearly an island, being in the form of a peninsula jutting out from New Brunswick by a stalk only 13 miles wide. The capital of this province is the important Empire port of Halifax, which is open all the year round.

New Brunswick is about the same size as Ireland, and the important port of Saint John is situated in its territory.

All the Maritime Provinces are chiefly agricultural, Prince Edward Island almost entirely so, its farming being largely dairying, pig- and poultry-rearing, and fur farming. Nova Scotia has the splendid apple area of the Annapolis Valley, a hundred miles in length, and grows other fruit. Fishing is also important in Nova Scotia,

and it has valuable coal-mines on Cape Breton Island, where there are the important steel-works of the British Empire Steel Corporation (Besco), using the iron ore imported from the company's own mines in Newfoundland. The population is 500,000. New Brunswick is not only agricultural, growing large quantities of oats, hay, and potatoes, but it has a large lumbering industry in the vast forests of the interior. One-quarter of the population here are descendants of the old French settlers; the rest are of English and Scottish extraction. Fishing is especially important.

*Central Provinces*

Quebec is the largest province in the Dominion. It lies along the magnificent St. Lawrence River for almost the whole of its length, and it has a boundary on the south with the Maritime Provinces and with the United States. Agriculture and fisheries are the most widespread occupations, but the province has an important manufacturing industry, making woollen and cotton goods, pulp and paper, tobacco, boots and shoes, railway cars and locomotives, and many other things. Lumbering is only second to agriculture in importance, and only a small part of the reserves of forests have yet been touched. The mineral deposits are only now beginning to be seriously examined.

The population of Quebec—nearly 2½ millions in 1921—is largely French-speaking, the French-speaking Canadians living largely in the country and the English-speaking in the towns. The chief papers in Quebec City are published in French, and an acquaintance with the language and a sympathetic understanding of the French point of view go a very long way in this province to making life a pleasant thing. The French-speaking people are almost entirely Roman Catholic, and Quebec is said by some people to be the chief stronghold of Roman Catholicism in the world. To those who appreciate the beauty and charm of the old cities of France, Quebec will have an instant and intimate appeal.

Ontario, which leads in population and in value of industrial products, is the second largest province of Canada, and is divided into the southern portion, Old Ontario, which is a settled agricultural land, and New Ontario, in the north, where life is largely still in the pioneer stage. The capital of Ontario Province is the very English garden city of Toronto, and the province also contains the Dominion capital of Ottawa. Agriculture in Old Ontario is mixed farming and fruit farming; there is a very large lumbering industry—the second in provincial rank in Canada—and there is a very great manufacturing industry producing almost every kind of manufactured

thing which is made anywhere. It is in Ontario that the important Canadian motor trade is situated.

Northern Ontario is a very rich mineral area ; it contains silver-mines at Cobalt, and gold-mines (including the well-known Hollinger mine) at Porcupine and Kirkland Lake. There are also copper, nickel, iron, and oil.

In Northern Ontario, too, a great deal of land is available for agricultural settlement on easy terms.

The total population, mostly British-born or of British extraction, was 2,933,662 at the 1921 census.

*Prairie Provinces*

Manitoba is a great wheat province, but mixed farming and fruit farming are making rapid progress ; industry is growing ; there is some lumbering industry, and there is a fishing industry in the numerous lakes. But Manitoba is very much a land in the making, while wireless, the ubiquitous Ford car, and the telephone in country districts have largely abolished loneliness.

Saskatchewan, a province which is larger than France, has only had a small part of its land cultivated up to the present, and, without clearing forests, there are calculated to be seventy-two million acres suitable and awaiting the farmer.

Wheat is the chief crop, and cattle-raising is important. But in minerals Saskatchewan is fortunate in having a very large deposit of lignite coal. Lumbering is not much developed, and mining, apart from coal, very little. Much of Saskatchewan is still awaiting its conqueror.

Alberta is the prairie province which stretches westward up to the Rocky Mountains. It is largely a grain-growing area, and the remaining large cattle-ranches are there too. Coal, oil, and natural gas give promise to a big industrial future. In the south of the province large schemes of irrigation are producing very profitable results.

*Pacific Province*

British Columbia is devoted largely to mixed-fruit farming; its lumber industry is gigantic, its mining industry only second in output to Ontario, and it has the largest copper-mine in the British Empire at Britannia Beach, thirty miles from Vancouver. The fishing industry accounts for about half the production of the entire Dominion of Canada. The population, which is very British, is over half a million, about a quarter of a million of whom are in and around Vancouver.

Canada is well supplied with railways and with roads, and more are being built every year. The Canadian Pacific Railway has been responsible for a great deal of the development of Canada.

This progressive company has neglected no opportunity of attracting suitable settlers to the Dominions, and has, since adopting its colonisation policy in 1881, spent millions of dollars on land settlement, irrigation systems, and other colonising schemes. No effort has been spared to demonstrate to the world in general the splendid opportunities of Canada. And, in addition to this, the series of the great lakes and the St. Lawrence River make one of the greatest inland waterways of the world. Much of Canada's export comes out by rail or river to the eastern ports, but Vancouver, on the Pacific, is being more developed, and an increasing tonnage is coming out of Canada via Vancouver, through the Panama Canal, and so to the eastern ports of U.S.A. or Canada and to Europe.

The territories up to the north and towards the Arctic are not for the ordinary settler, but they are the destined land of the pioneer who is willing to carve out a new chapter of our Empire history. The description of these territories belongs to a separate division of this little book, for it belongs to the future, and may open up a new prospect, not only for Canada, but for Europe.

In Elizabethan days the trend of Empire was "Westward Ho"; in the last fifty years we have seen great areas of the tropics opened up and

MAIN BUILDING, MACDONALD COLLEGE, NEAR MONTREAL *p.* 32

brought within the circle of active trade and politics; there still remain, however, vast unpeopled lands in the north, and to what Stefansson has called "The Northern Trend of Empire" the pioneer spirit is now more and more turning its attention.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE OPEN DOOR

The wide-open door in Canada is the opening on to the vast and fertile farm lands and forests. It is men and women farmers Canada needs and that the Empire needs, for every acre unused makes us so much poorer. The man or woman best adapted for farming in Canada is one accustomed to life in the country, with a knowledge of the things a country man or farmer must handle, and with a good general education to which some technical training in farming has been added.

The farm labourer in this country fills part of the bill, but his general education has often been not very good and his technical training *nil*. An intelligent townsman may fill the bill completely if he will add to his general education the technical training needed, and make sure that he really desires to live on a farm and is fitted to do so. For the problem of settlement on the land in Canada—or anywhere else, for that matter—is twofold. Firstly, it is a question of character and capacity, and, secondly, of knowledge and training. We are all of us, in this country,

more or less affected by our town type of civilisation, and the effect is often a debilitating one. Men accustomed to the highly artificial conditions of town life, in crowds, in lighted cities, protected, safeguarded, not only as to health, but as to almost every contingency which can arise, will find life under country conditions difficult. It is well for a townsman, therefore, to see that he really understands what life on a farm is like, where the night is dark and quiet and where it is from the land itself that the necessities of existence have to be won. It is well for the townsman to discover also whether he has the necessary physical qualities for work on the land. If a man can at least accept the inevitable conditions of life in the country, which means throwing him a good deal on his own resources, and if he has the physical health and the kind of strength required—not great physical power, but the possibility of long, sustained effort—then he has the proper foundation for making a good citizen of Canada. But if a man or woman cannot do without a good deal of the kind of excitement offered by the large city in this country, and if his idea of farming is to ride around dressed in well-cut breeches and natty leggings while " paid hands " make an income for him, he'd better stay at home. That kind of farming does not pay in Great Britain, and it does not pay in Canada.

The unfortunate truth is that a good deal of our town life in this country—especially for the two most unfortunate classes, the poorest and the richest—is very much of the nature of a disease. Human beings grow up white-blooded, like plants grow in a cellar away from the light—etiolated, as botanists call it—and produce, not health, but a whole crop of physical, social, and moral evils.

For the townsman who has reasonably good health and physique, and who really desires to farm in Canada, the chief desideratum is that he should get some rough acquaintance with farming life in this country before he goes overseas, so that he will have a working knowledge of what has to be done in daily life. And, in addition to this, he should get as much information as possible about farming in Canada itself. The Canadian National Railway have a good correspondence course in farming which has proved most helpful, for knowledge of farming is like knowledge of anything else, and can be learned in just the same way. The Canadian Pacific Railway also provides excellent facilities for those wishing to acquire practical knowledge of Canadian farming. An intelligent man, who sets his mind to learn agriculture as he would set his mind to learn chemistry or engineering, will make a better farmer than an unintelligent man whose methods are based on rule of thumb, however long his experience may

be. The idea that farming is a mystery, which can only be appreciated by a man with a lifelong apprenticeship to the soil plus a certain measure of sentimentalism about the beauties of nature and a few doggerel rhymes about sunsets and sunrises as methods of forecasting the weather, is just plain bunkum. Experience counts very much, of course, in farming, provided it is based on real observations worked upon by real intelligence. But intelligence and scientific study can make up in a few months for the lack of many years of experience in farming, just as in every other calling.

Speaking broadly, therefore, a townsman of the character that wants to farm, and with a fairly good education, will make a better farmer than an agricultural labourer with a poor education and with consequent undeveloped faculties. And no townsman need fear to tackle farming if he is prepared to seriously undertake to learn the subject as he would any other.

The best training possible at an agricultural college is, of course, desirable. But, if this is not possible for lack of time or money, a short preliminary testing-time in the country here is desirable, both for the purposes of testing motives and improving health. After this, if the migrant goes to Canada he should spend a year or more as a help on a farm, to learn the ways of the country and the ways of the land before setting up for

himself. And, while he is doing this, the migrant should keep his pockets shut as well as his mouth, for the shark preying on others is known in Canada as well as in Great Britain.

Generally speaking, the younger a man or woman goes out after completing a general education the better. But older men with families make good, and can be sure, in any case, of giving their children a good start. For there can be no doubt, except for quite exceptional cases, the chance for the child of the average family in Canada is a hundred per cent. better than in Great Britain. Even if an older man feels the farming life hard for himself and his wife, he may be well satisfied to " stick it " in order to give a better chance to his children. For the man or woman who is going to Canada paying his own expenses throughout, and with the intention of either investing his capital in farming or earning and saving (which can be done) in order to invest in the land, the Canadian Government Agency or the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Canadian National Railway will give useful information. This should, of course, be supplemented from private sources, and also from the Overseas Settlement Committee, a British Government organisation which is willing to help intending settlers in Canada or in other parts of the Dominions.

A great part in the opening up of Canada has

always been played by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The original opening of the continent, and the engineering and financial difficulties overcome, make one of the real romances of the New World. And since that time the Canadian Pacific Railway has always pursued an active and progressive policy in developing the enormous natural wealth of Canada. Colonists have been assisted to settle on the land, advances made to them for the purchase of livestock and the defraying of initial expenses, irrigation work carried out to improve land, and demonstration farms established to show in practical shape what can be done.

One of the most useful methods of help has been the personal conducting of parties of colonists from the British Isles ; it has been particularly successful in securing colonisation by those best fitted to adapt themselves to a Canadian life.

*The Assisted Migrant*

To the man without capital, Canada at the present time offers very attractive openings, for he can get there for as little as two pounds as far as Quebec, and for as little as eight pounds right across the Atlantic and the continent of North America to Vancouver, on the Pacific. And any children under seventeen go free. To qualify for these cheap fares migrants must be, if men : (1) Nominated persons for farm work ;

(2) Experienced farm workers; (3) Nominated by Canadian friends or relations or the Canadian Government, or by some organisation approved by the Government. Women must be willing to take up domestic work if single, or go with their husbands to farm work if married. In addition to the cheap fares, loans are made in certain cases and employment in Canada is provided.

These terms of migration are very favourable, and appeal particularly to people with very little money indeed.

But another Canadian plan provides for family migration in the case of those ready and willing to take up farms, and having at least twenty-five pounds to start with. This family migration plan is the result of the agreement drawn up by the first British Labour Government with the Canadian Government, and providing for the settlement of three thousand families on farms in the various provinces of Canada. Under this agreement the Canadian Government undertakes to provide farms in settled and established districts, ready provided with houses, and of which part at least is ready for immediate cultivation. The cost of the farm, with livestock and the necessary equipment, varies from eight hundred pounds to one thousand pounds, including an amount up to three hundred pounds which may be advanced by the Canadian Government in suitable

WESTERN CANADIAN FARMHOUSE AND BUILDINGS [p. 49]

cases. The total cost incurred, including any loan from Government, is repayable over a period of twenty-five years, with interest calculated at five per cent., which makes the annual payment about seventy-two pounds a year, beginning at the end of the second season after the settlers arrive.

During 1925 four hundred and eighty families went to Canada to settle under these arrangements, and all have made good with the exception of twenty-five families. Some of these were misfits for reasons of bad health (in one case consumption, originating before departure in Scotland), and in other cases for lack of suitability for farm life, a number of these cases being put down to the wife and not the husband. For it must be realised that the wife's part in farm life is just as important as that of the husband, and a woman who cannot make good in the house or in the care of children, and who cannot manage and contrive properly, can wreck a man's chance of success just as badly as his own incapacity or shiftlessness.

Another form of migration open in Canada is that of boys and girls. Suitable young people can be trained free in Alberta at the provincial agricultural schools, the only cost being about six pounds a month for board and lodging. And there is no doubt but that child migration is a very valuable thing, as has been shown by the experience of the charitable work carried on by the

Salvation Army, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and Fegan's Homes.

Indeed, if a parent could arrange privately for his child to be cared for in the home of some friend or relation in Canada—and many of us have those friends or relations—there is very little doubt but that such a child would very soon get the opportunity of making a way for himself. Of course, I am not speaking of young children, but, rather, young persons of about sixteen years old who have been properly educated in Great Britain, and who can continue their education in Canada, or begin to take up work which will train them to become independent citizens a little later on.

For the industrial worker Canada offers fewer immediate prospects, because the total number of persons employed in industry is only about eight hundred thousand, this number including clerical as well as manual workers. And it is the migration of industrial workers that Canadian labour fears, and the migration of people unsuitable for farm work which causes trouble. It is true that industrial conditions are changing, and that Canadian industry is likely to need very many more workers in the next few years. But in the nature of things these workers will be largely provided by the growth of a Canadian-born population, or come from the families of those already settled in Canada. There will, of course,

be special places which can be filled by migrants, and which will be filled by them, but there is no big labour market in industry clamouring for new workers, and willing and able to absorb all who come.

Coal-mining, for example, is being developed in various provinces from east to west, and over five hundred mines are in operation, but only about thirty thousand men are employed on the average during the year. Canada, again, has a very important asbestos-mining industry, but it employs less than three thousand people. The natural gas industry employs about a thousand persons; salt-mining less than five hundred; and so on. The railway shops, the motor-car industry, and the industries round the great cities of the east, employ, in the aggregate, a considerable number of people; the new aluminium industry near Quebec will employ many more. But the career opened in any of these industries is one for which there is much competition from Canada, and one, therefore, in which the British migrant will need to be sure of special skill or special experience if he is to be successful.

If a man or woman can get the opportunity of a definite offer of employment before he leaves this country, then industrial Canada certainly gives better prospects than industrial Britain at the present time. But not unless. To succeed in

the very limited industrial area in Canada a migrant probably needs, not only exceptional skill, but exceptional character; he is, to begin with, tremendously handicapped by lack of local knowledge. But in the field of farming no such exceptional qualities are required, and success is only dependent on ordinary common sense and knowledge. A man with a reasonably founded confidence in himself and a reasonable stock of knowledge can certainly do well in Canada on the land. He may not prosper at once, and he may have an uphill fight to begin with, but success is the rule and failure the exception. And while success or failure in Britain on the land depends on very many things, the chief among which is the lack of opportunity, success or failure in Canada depends very largely on a man himself. If a man means to succeed on the land in Canada he will succeed; he will have to work and sweat for success, but when it comes he can, if he will, make it the permanent foundation of a higher standard of life for himself and his family which is quite out of the reach of the ordinary man in this country.

# CHAPTER V

## CANADA'S OFFER TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

During the lifetime of the first Labour Government in Great Britain, Miss Margaret Bondfield visited Canada to examine on the spot the conditions of life as they affected migration to that country. And Miss Bondfield paid special attention to the migration of women and young people. On the general question the verdict is a very favourable one, and applies to both men and women. "The settler who is of the right type, who goes out under proper safeguards and settles under the right conditions, will find ampler opportunities overseas than if he remained in this country. He can be assured of employment under healthy conditions, with the reasonable prospect of becoming a farmer on his own account. There are, perhaps, no fortunes to be made at farming, even in the Dominions, except by the few, but the settler on the land overseas is at least sure of a sturdy independence and a comfortable livelihood for himself and his family, with wider opportunities for his children."[1]

With regard to women, it may be safely said

[1] *Labour Magazine*, November 1925.

that "no capable girl need hesitate to try her fortune in the Dominions as a household worker. She will find herself welcomed as a valuable addition to the community."[1]

Single women between the ages of eighteen and forty-eight who are in good health and have had domestic experience in this country are eligible to migrate to Canada under the scheme for the payment of ocean passages at the reduced rate of two pounds. Domestic work is guaranteed to such migrants by the Canadian Government. But, apart from purely Government arrangements, there is always work for women to be had on farms, where the demand is in excess of the supply. Wages in both town and country are good, there is a choice of places, and the status of the domestic worker is much in advance of that in Great Britain. The positions found for women are arranged by the Canadian Government in co-operation with women's organisations in that country, and the woman migrant is looked after by an official agency until she is thoroughly settled in her new surroundings. Conditions of migration of women to Canada are better than those for men, and women are at a premium; employment is always open, the marriage-rate is high, and the prospects for the ordinary worker at least twice as good as in Great Britain.

[1] *Labour Magazine*, December 1925.

For the more highly skilled professional women there are also openings, but not for those who wish to carry on ordinary typing or shorthand clerk's work with the ordinary qualifications. On the other hand, there is a demand for women teachers, and the business woman has chances on the North American continent which she does not get here.

But the real opening for women, as for men, is on the land, and the man's success on the land is often determined by the wife's success in the house.

The life on farms is not now so isolated as it used to be. Ford cars go everywhere, and are so cheap as to be within the reach of nearly everyone; the rural telephone system is very extensive; and wireless is spreading its network all over the face of the land. But, although no longer isolated, the woman's part on the farm is loaded with responsibilities. It is difficult to get help, hence the constant and never-satisfied demand for women helpers; and, secondly, in addition to ordinary domestic work, all kinds of lighter farm work fall to the woman's share. Milking, butter-making, poultry-keeping, and providing meals for farm workers at harvest-time, all come within her sphere.

As Miss Bondfield says, "The aim of the new settler who wishes to succeed is to make his farm as nearly self-supporting as possible in the matter

of food, so that store accounts may be kept down to a minimum, and his success in this direction depends mainly on his wife. It is clear that if the settler's wife is not able to overcome the initial difficulties of settlement, the failure of the undertaking is only a matter of time."

The suitability of the wife for settlement in Canada is, indeed, as much a matter of importance as that of the husband. And the need of the wife's help on the farm is no doubt one of the reasons for the high marriage-rate among women helpers on farms. A woman who can really cook and manage, and give a hand with the cows and the poultry, is a tremendously important asset in farm life. Capacities of these kinds are seen in their true perspective as constituting a very valuable dowry—much more valuable, in fact, than even a considerable capital.

In that is the secret of Canada. Everything is there, ready and waiting for the hand of man to work upon it and turn it into capital. Capital can be created and accumulated in Canada in a way quite out of reach of the ordinary man or woman in Great Britain.

*Child Migration*

The best kind of all child migrants to Canada are those that come, not from another land, but through the gate of birth to established settlers in that Dominion. But, even if the birth-rate

POULTRY RAISING IS A PROFITABLE INDUSTRY IN CANADA

of Canada were higher than it is, it would be necessary for many migrants to come from overseas if the vast unused lands are to be peopled and brought into cultivation within a short period of time.

With regard to Canada, the migration of children of all ages has been in operation for over fifty years, and about a million children have gone to the Dominion during this period. During the years 1901–1924 forty-one thousand children came to Canada through the agency of various charitable and philanthropic organisations. The societies have home centres for the children arriving in Canada, which act as receiving homes, and to which they can return in case of illness or if changing their employment. The boys are put on to farms for the most part, and the girls work in homes in the smaller towns. All the children are visited regularly, and remain the wards of the societies which send them out until they are adult, the age varying, however, from eighteen to twenty. The children sent out up to the present time have been substantially benefited, their prospects of improving their position being much better than anything which they could have had in Great Britain. And this applies to children of all ages, despite the very few cases in which complaints have been made. But, to avoid even these very few complaints, a change has been made, and children now are not allowed to enter

Canada if under fourteen years old unless they are with their parents or legal guardians.

The advantages of child migration, both from the point of view of the young people themselves and from the point of view of Canada, are clear. A boy going to Canada will normally work on a farm as an apprentice or learner for three years, during which period he will be in receipt of a wage which will enable him to save a small capital. At the end of his training period he is an experienced farm worker, and has already a small capital, to which he can add by savings from the good wages he will now be able to command. In another three or four years he should be in a position to start independent farming. To begin independent farming, with experience and a small capital, at twenty-one years of age may well sound like a dream to young people in this country, but it is a reality in Canada.

The migration of girls is not so easy as that of boys, and, generally speaking, girls do not go out to Canada until they are older, but the earlier, in reason, arrangements can be made for girl migrants to leave Great Britain the longer period of apprenticeship will they have to Canadian conditions.

Of course, with young people it is the parents who need to take the initiative, and those with relatives or friends in Canada might well consider sending their children over there to continue

education after fourteen at some of the excellent schools and technical colleges which exist. For young people for whom such arrangements can be made one can reckon that it is not only a few occupations that offer careers in Canada, but all occupations. For if such children are not actually Canadians, they so rapidly assimilate the characters of their environment as to become Canadians for all practical purposes. And so they go in to compete for careers by the same door as Canadians, and not by that used by people from overseas.

# CHAPTER VI

## SOCIAL LIFE

Social life in Canada is freer, easier, and more diversified than in Great Britain. For Canada contains, not only a great English-speaking nation, but a great French-speaking nation centred around Quebec, and in the more recently settled lands there are representatives of practically all the nations in Europe.

And all the elements are welded together to form a Canadian nationality. The foundation of this nation rests on that union of French and British elements which has so profoundly influenced the history of Canada. The newer elements—Scandinavians, Russians, Poles, many other European groups, and a big contingent coming into the Prairie Provinces from the United States—contribute variety to the nation in minor degree. And, apart from the actual influx of settlers from the U.S.A., the States have a great influence through finance, through social customs, and through an ever-growing friendly intercourse. One striking fact not often noticed is that the State departments of the

United States at Washington keep an open door for the representatives of the Canadian Dominion or of its provinces. A Minister of Education, for example, in Canada can have open access to the records and to the experience of the education departments of the States. Information and help on all matters are freely and frankly interchanged, so that the experience of any one part of the North American continent becomes speedily available for other parts, whether in Canada or the States.

The tendency of development in Canada is, therefore, towards a distinctive North American culture which yet remains profoundly British-Canadian and French-Canadian, and emphatically Empire-British. The economic, political, and social facts just referred to have made many people think that Canada is destined to be swallowed up by the United States. But a closer analysis of the facts destroys this idea. The great political parties, the Liberals and the Conservatives, both repudiate the idea of absorption, and the other parties—the small Progressive Party, with less than a dozen members, and the Labour Party, with only two—also repudiate it. Popular sentiment, except in the case of "Americanised" dwellers on the prairies, also emphatically repudiates it. Indeed, the deeper one digs into the realities of Canadian life the more formidable does the opposition to annexation

by the U.S.A. become, and for easily understandable reasons. Canada has a small population and a vast country, whose development is entirely in her people's hands. Annexation would mean the flooding of Canadian interests by general North American interests. Canada inside the United States would lose more opportunities than she gains. And more profoundly important still is the difference of constitutional development and social growth ; both the French and English sides of Canada have a history in which their individuality is rooted. The French element in Canada feels itself to be, and is, a real part of a new nation ; it goes back with pride to the discovery and opening up of Canada by French explorers, to the heroic work of the French explorer-priests, to the romance of the *voyageurs*. Dr. L. J. Lemieux, the Agent-General for Quebec in London, speaking recently at the Royal Colonial Institute, said, " In Quebec, we deepen the root and enrich the soil of our patriotism by keeping alive, and transmitting from generation to generation, the remembrance of the courageous deeds, sacrifices, successes—aye, and failures—of our noble French ancestors " ; and he said a little later, " French-Canadians always look up to England as their mother country and the guarantor of their liberties, under the now famous Quebec Act." And Dr. Lemieux went on to speak of Jacques Cartier's voyage up the St.

Lawrence River in 1534; of Champlain; Maisonneuve, founder of Montreal; Monseigneur de Laval, founder of Quebec Seminary ninety years before the cession of Canada to Great Britain; of Iberville and Bienville, founders of the great State of Louisiana and of many others. The French are rooted in the soil; many families still occupy the land granted their ancestors by Louis XIV, and "everyone in Quebec can find his family tree by consulting Abbé Tanguay's *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes-Françaises*." Speaking of the heroes of the past, he said, "We worship their memory; for over three hundred years we have kept pure and intact their language, for it is the vehicle of our history, our songs, our folk-lore, and traditions—in short, the mark of our nationality."

*The French-Canadian*

The French-Canadian farmer, called the *habitant*, speaks, as a rule, only French, but business and professional men are bi-lingual. But the French-Canadian is not a European Frenchman, he is a Canadian; the physical type, descended largely from that of Normandy and Brittany, is a tougher and stronger type than that in Europe.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, perhaps the greatest statesman Canada has produced, was a French-Canadian with the idea of uniting both races,

French and English, on a basis of equality of rights, mutual respect, and tolerance.

Curiously enough, there has been practically no emigration from France to Canada for about two hundred years. In 1759 there were only sixty thousand French-Canadians, but now there are two million five hundred thousand, and they have the highest birth-rate in the Dominion, and a form of culture and national life centring around their parish organisation and their schools which keeps them together as a living, growing nation. During the last twenty years the number of French-Canadians has increased by one million. The French-Canadian regards Canada, not as an adopted country, but as his own native soil, and, wherever he goes, " his heart remains there among its green pastures, its brightly hued villages with their tall church spires, that old Quebec whose atmosphere can nowhere else be found in all America."

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of Quebec in Canada. Recently Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, one of the Prairie Provinces, said that Quebec was " the anchor of stability in a troubled sea." Dr. Lemieux ended his speech by saying, " In Quebec, French by descent and affection, we are British by allegiance and conviction. Canada is a living example of the nationalisation of two peoples under the flag of the Empire, achieved without

BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL, CANADIAN PACIFIC ROCKIES

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the elimination of ancestral pride, custom, or language."

The vigour of this French-Canadian national life is expressed, not only in words and in a remarkable literature, but in a high birth-rate, a spreading of the population westward, and in a high degree of material prosperity. Quebec Province owns twenty-five per cent. of Canadian wealth, and is happy, prosperous, and strong. And the maintenance of this life depends on the maintenance of Canada's position outside the United States and inside the British Empire.

*The British-Canadian*

The British tradition is equally deeply rooted. The Empire loyalists, who would not accept the secession of the United States from Great Britain after the War of Independence, migrated to Canada, and still maintain their strong and vital memory of Empire loyalty. If Quebec is full of the charm and delight of old France, Toronto is full of the robust tradition of Britain, and British Columbia is perhaps more British than Britain herself. And both French and British traditions are living things, moulding and shaping human lives, and stretching back to the memory of great and heroic achievements and stretching forward to splendid aspirations. For Canada feels itself, and is only at the beginning of its development, and has the pride and strength

of youth in its heart bidding it remain separate from the U.S.A., building upon the foundation of its already great history and sharing the tradition and constitutional development of those liberties which flourish under the British flag.

So Canada is not so much British, French, or American as Canadian. The gentle toning of the speech with an "American accent" gives a charm to words; it is not the Yankee twang or the Southern States drawl, but a soft nuance that yet adds a pungency to expression. Manners, too, are freer and more openly hospitable than in Great Britain. Hospitality and frequent informal entertaining are a characteristic of Canadian life.

In the great Canadian cities and around the universities—and every Canadian provincial government has at least one provincial university, and there are many others—there is a circle of cultivated and delightful people who differ in no way from similar circles in Europe, except perhaps in a greater absence of social prejudices. Canada is a real democracy; a university student, if he is hard up and wants money, will work as a waiter in a restaurant, as a farm hand, as a street excavator, or as a fire-ranger in the forests, whichever comes handiest, and without exciting either particular observation or particular commiseration.

An interesting holiday of people in the eastern

parts of Canada, including business and professional men, students, lecturers, and professors, is to go westwards to work as labourers at the gathering in of the splendid golden harvests of the prairies. Work is hard, sun is hot, living is alfresco camping, and food ample but simple, but the holiday-makers come back hard, brown, and fit.

But there are many other kinds of holidays, and Canadian holidays are magnificent. So beautiful is the country that, as has already been mentioned, Canada's third largest industry is the tourist industry. The United States invades Canada year by year in an ever-increasing army of automobiles and special trains. In summer-time the streets of such cities as Quebec and Montreal are full of parked cars hailing from all the different States of the Union, and the roads of Canada are white with the clouds of dust they throw up.

On all the great lakes and rivers there are holiday hotels, holiday camping-grounds, holiday bungalows. There is big-game shooting and fishing *ad infinitum*. There are delightful sea places on the Atlantic and on the Pacific ; there are lakes with the eternal quiet of the forest around them and camps in the hills which are as primitive as in the days of the old Indian tribes. And there are the Rocky Mountains, greater and more wonderful than the Alps, and open to the

explorer and camper like the very land of freedom itself.

Canada is very fortunate in having a system of nineteen National Parks, fourteen of which are in Western Canada. These are vast areas in which the primitive conditions of the country are preserved, and in which the wild animals find sanctuary. The Jasper National Park is the largest, but the Rocky Mountain Park has an area of 2,751 square miles, while others vary from Mount Revelstoke Park, at 100 square miles, to Kootenay Park, with 587 square miles. In these parks the most delightful holidays may be spent; they have the fascination of the wild with the comforts of organised life superadded. The opening of the Banff-Windermere road across the Canadian-Pacific Rockies in 1923 has opened a wonderful route to the motor-car, and along it there are bungalow camps, where the traveller can live in a log-cabin and see bears and other big game by just strolling about a little off the road, and then come back to the bungalow and have a hot bath and a hot meal.

Or, if the visitor is not inured to even this amount of "roughing it," he can live at the Banff Springs Hotel, a vast palace in the Bow Valley. There is nothing in Europe quite like this great playground of the Rocky Mountains, where men have built railways and roads and planted hotels and camps amid a marching multitude of peaks,

the highest of which compares with Mont Blanc, in Switzerland, and the average height of which is about eight thousand feet.

Canada works hard and plays splendidly, and her workshops and playing-fields are open to all her children.

Life is by no means all hard work in Canada, and hard work in Canada is done with more joy in it than can often be found in Great Britain. For it is essentially work for oneself, with the design and certainty of reaching a definitely independent position on the land or elsewhere. And to this joy in work and in living the climate certainly contributes; it makes people want to work. And it offers to all who come a freely given chance to "make good."

This desire to give everyone a chance on a footing of equality is a leading motive, not only of Canadian social life, but of Canadian education, which is a preparation for life. And if it turns away from old social values in Europe, values depending on birth and social position and the pallid ghosts of feudal ideas, it does not always succeed in arriving at new values of a permanent kind. There is certainly a tendency to money snobbery in Canada, but this is probably preferable to social snobbery. And, at worst, the tendency is not very pronounced, and is not developing, for the excellent reason that it runs counter to all that is best in both French and English traditions, which,

between them, determine the note of Canadian society. In the life of Canada, education plays a very great part, and the universities play a relatively greater part in Canada than they do in Great Britain. And Canada is making a great contribution nowadays to the work of the sciences and to the political and intellectual life of the world. The discovery of insulin, the cure for diabetes, was made in Canada; Senator Dandurand, who presided over the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1925, is a Canadian. In Canadian laboratories wonderful investigations are being made on radio-activity and atomic structure. Nor is literature neglected, for during the last fifteen years, four hundred authors in Quebec province alone have written over three thousand books on history, geography, travel, poetry, science, art, and general literature.

# CHAPTER VII

## EDUCATION

The real interest in education in Canada springs from the people themselves. And, because the Government is one entirely democratic, the provincial governments of Canada supply what the people demand. Dr. E. H. Stevens, the leader of a party of British teachers who visited Canada in 1925, sums up the social side of the business admirably (*Teachers' Trails in Canada*, Dent, 1925):

> "Socially there is a refreshing absence of class and caste distinctions. No one is looked down on, or debarred from intercourse, because he is, or has been, in a humble walk of life. Manual labourers rise to be Cabinet Ministers, and Cabinet Ministers are familiarly known—and not seldom addressed—by their Christian names. I met an ex-major of the Royal Artillery who had been a farm labourer, camp cook, and lumberman before rising to be a forest ranger."

Schools are provided for all children in Canada from seven years to fourteen. In most provinces

children may be admitted to school at five and stay until fifteen or sixteen. In some provinces the age is being raised, and in Alberta the leaving age is now sixteen.

The schools which all children attend are called public schools, and there are practically none of the private schools which are called "public" schools in this country. All elementary education is free, and the standards of teaching are good.

In Canada, as a whole, education is non-sectarian and in the English language. In Quebec Province non-sectarian schools exist, but the bulk of the education is carried out in Roman Catholic schools, and both French and English languages are used.

Schools for children over public school age are called "high schools" or "collegiate institutes," and the majority of them throughout the Dominion are free, and even those which do charge fees ask a sum which is very low indeed. In some country districts where separate high schools cannot be set up there are continuation classes for older children in connection with the public schools.

Each province in the Dominion has at least one university, and some have several. The fees are everywhere very low. Some, as in British Columbia, are free, and there are many scholarships, so that no one need be debarred from university education by lack of money.

STREET SCENE IN THE SHOPPING CENTRE OF VANCOUVER, B.C. [*p.* 64

Men and women frequently manage to make enough money during the year to pay their own fees, and are not debarred by any social snobbery or any fall in the estimate of their own comrades from doing any kind of honest work.

Harvesting is one kind of work; forest-fire ranging (protection of the vast forest reserves from destruction by casual fire) is another; but anything which men or women can do is done.

During the last twenty-five years there has been a very great development of Canada's technical and practical education. One of Canada's very great men, Sir William Macdonald, was instrumental in starting one of the best equipped agricultural colleges in the world, the Macdonald Agricultural College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, near Montreal, in Quebec Province, and similar colleges have now been established all over Canada, and most of the universities have added a Faculty of Agriculture. In addition to this, Alberta has been very active in organising special agricultural schools, and special instruction is given in agriculture in a large number of public schools and high schools.

As a kind of extension of the college and schools we may mention that there are over twenty-four experimental farms, where improvement of seeds and all kinds of practical work are carried out. And Canada's interest in farming is not by any means academic. New types of wheat have

# CHAPTER VIII

## CANADA AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

In no part of the world—not even in the most densely populated parts of Europe—has the limit of productivity been reached, either as regards the cultivation of the soil or the use of the natural riches below the surface of the soil. But while in Europe the complex political, social, and economic conditions make further development difficult and expensive, in Canada these difficulties are much less serious, and development much cheaper. And while in Europe, if Russia be excepted, a large proportion of the land and of the earth's under-surface resources are already being used, in Canada a much smaller proportion of the land is under cultivation, and only a fraction of the other natural resources are being exploited. Another very important difference between Canada and Europe is that there still remains in Canada a large and unappropriated margin of unused land which is obtainable on very easy terms, either from the Government or from large corporations.

The formula for Empire development has been stated in terms of the organisation of "men,

money, and markets," working upon existing natural resources, and this formula for Canada, because of her immense natural resources, seems likely to lead to a very great prosperity. For with natural resources so great, and with the men and women of Great Britain to draw upon for population and the wealth of the Empire for money, we have some of the chief factors in abundance. But it is when we come to consider markets that Canada's favourable position is most marked. For Canada has not only the market of Great Britain and of the Empire at her disposal, on the same terms as the other Dominions ; she has also the great and very prosperous market of the United States actually at her doors. And Canada can and does call upon the United States for capital, and finds the American capitalist willing, and even anxious, to invest large sums in Canada, as witness the Aluminium Company of America, which is starting operations in Quebec Province, and in which the U.S.A. is investing millions of dollars.

It would seem probable, therefore, to put it at its lowest, that Canada is bound to develop rapidly and to become very much more prosperous, and to have a very much larger population, during the next fifty years. But it yet remains in our hands to determine the share we shall take in the direction of development of the great Canadian civilisation, already so firmly rooted in the soil.

been produced, and the greatly increased yields of wheat which the Dominion has experienced in recent years are partly the fruit of scientific research made available to all by the State institutions.

It was in a Canadian laboratory that the Marquis wheat was bred, and in which it is hoped to breed even more valuable grains. The new Garnet wheat, which ripens in a relatively short period, is expected to make wheat-growing possible in lands to the north where the summer is short. But Canada's technical instruction is by no means only in farming, although it naturally takes a big place; there are schools of engineering, navigation, domestic service, and large numbers of training colleges for teachers. The Montreal Technical School, for instance, gives a three-years' course for boys over fourteen to provide them with the technical education necessary to become skilled mechanics or foremen or superintendents. The Quebec Technical School gives a three-years' course to boys over fourteen in preparation for the callings of pattern-maker, wood-worker, machinist, fitter, lathe-hand, electrician, blacksmith, draughtsman, and all or any positions connected with the metal, wood, and electricity industries. It is the boys coming through the avenue of this Canadian training who will fill the positions which need filling as Canadian industry expands.

That the enthusiasm for education is a real thing is clearly shown by the figures of attendances, for out of a total population of under ten million persons, over two million children and adults are "at school" in one way or another. This is a proportion of the population equal to that of school attendances in London, and represents truly a remarkable performance in a vast country stretching over thousands of miles, and with a comparatively small and scattered population.

That it will have a strong French-Canadian element is certain, because, although no new French migrants come to Canada in any numbers which affect the problem, the growth of the French-Canadian element is regular and considerable, and, under the influence of the conservative social institutions of Quebec, is likely to continue. That it will have a strong British element is also certain, because the majority of the present-day Canadians are of British stock. But is this proportion to decrease or increase, is the influence of British ideas to grow or to gradually diminish? And, as the tendency now shows itself, the British proportion of Canada is increasing relatively more slowly than others, and British migrants do not make up the deficiency. That it is desirable to remedy this by increased migration will be denied by few people. But, at the same time, it should be generally realised that it is also desirable to remedy this by linking Canada and Britain more closely together financially and economically by a greater use of British capital in Canada and a greater use of Canadian products in Great Britain. An example of existing conditions may be taken from Canadian wheat, an appreciable proportion of which is shipped to Great Britain via the United States, and financed by United States banks. An effort should be made for greater Empire independence, and much towards these ends can

be done, not only by conferences of statesmen and business men, but by encouraging a fuller understanding of the problems of our social life on one or other side of the Atlantic. But without a considerably increased migration British ideas are bound to lose their relatively important position, and the ideas of the United States will tend to take their place.

It must also not be forgotten that if Canada does not get British migrants she will get others. Many nations are already settled in Canada, for Canada, like the United States, is a "melting-pot." And all have their value, and go to make up a Canada which is not British, not French, not U.S.A., and not any of the other nations of Europe, but Canadian. Canada has her own young and vigorous individuality, which will contribute more and more to the world, and which gives British ideas the chance in the North American continent, which the failure of British statesmen lost us at the time of the secession of the United States.

Nor should we forget in this connection the strong influence of that very British Dominion, Newfoundland.

And it happens that there are three great tasks confronting Canada to which Britain can give substantial help. One of these is political and economic, and concerns the social and economic relations of the nations of East and West as they

confront each other on the Pacific coast. The second concerns the greater and greater harmonisation of the civilisations of the British Empire and of the United States. The third is a problem of the pioneer, and concerns the opening up of the land in the north of the Prairie Provinces, and also of the great northern territories of Canada towards and within the Arctic Circle.

Of the first—the political issue of East and West—we shall only say this: that the experience of the British Empire in India and in Africa has given us a particularly valuable training in dealing with questions concerning the life of mixed communities of European and Asiatic stock. That the problem of the Pacific is one of the world's great problems is recognised by all, and Canada is one of the Pacific powers. We may hope, therefore, that the British traditions and British experience will make a great contribution to the peaceful adjustment of the relations of East and West which will have to be worked out during the next quarter of a century.

The problem of the greater and greater harmonisation of the civilisations of the British Empire and the United States is often not regarded as a problem at all; it is regarded as inevitable and desirable that we should grow closer together, and it is left at that. Of course, war between the United States and Great Britain is practically inconceivable; between Canada

and the U.S.A. it is actually inconceivable; and the longest frontier-line of the world is an unfortified frontier of peace. But, apart from war, there are commercial and economic rivalries, and we waste energy in competition which we might increase by co-operation.

Canada would seem destined to play a chief part in drawing the United States and the British Empire together, for Canada has a closer touch with the United States than any other Dominion because of her intimate daily contact with the life of her southern neighbour. And those who fear the Americanisation of Canada should realise that the close association, whose political results they (wrongly, I consider) fear, gives us the possibility of an understanding of and with the States which we could obtain in no other way. The close and friendly relation of the Canadian and United States Governments, and the appointment of a special Canadian diplomatic representative at Washington, are advances by the British Empire as a whole, and not by Canada alone, into closer friendship with the great English-speaking republic.

*The Northward Trend of Empire*

The third problem concerns the opening up of all Northern Canada. Vast tracts of land in the north of the Prairie Provinces are not yet fully developed. The Peace River district will

probably make a powerful appeal to the average settler, as it is within reach of the railways which are rapidly penetrating the enormous tracts of prairie in Northern Alberta, the wooded sections of which are also being opened up.

The northern portion of Saskatchewan also awaits the settler. This great stretch of country is very well watered by numerous lakes and rivers, a fact which will greatly facilitate transportation until the railway companies of Canada are able to extend their lines.

Northern Manitoba also has many rivers and lakes, and is in need of its share of colonists. The agricultural possibilities of these three provinces have as yet hardly been touched. The new Garnet wheat, which ripens a week or ten days before the Marquis type, may make a vast economic difference in all these northern lands.

The opening up of the northern regions is one that should peculiarly appeal to the pioneer spirit of the Briton. It is, indeed, probable that the extension of man's dominion over nature into the north is part of a process of evolution as old as man himself. For it seems probable that men first originated in the warmer regions of the world, and that the more vigorous peoples gradually spread north through the million or so years at which man's history is now reckoned. And it has been reasonably suggested that as the type man of the human species was apparently

a dark brown creature, somewhat resembling the Australian aborigine, the white races represent that variant of the species which found itself suited to the colder climes, and gradually moved north through the millennia of pre-history, while the type which became the negro moved south and the Asiatic moved east.

That the white races, having established their control over the greater part of the earth, should now be seeking to move north again, is a part of the great romance of history. In the record of pre-history the "reindeer men" play a great rôle. These men lived in Europe at a time when vast reindeer herds wandered over the lands which are now far to the south of the present-day Arctic Circle, and on which France, Germany, and the other chief nations of Europe have their homes. Is there a possibility of a new "reindeer" phase in the Far North?

In Alaska, reindeer-breeding is already a great industry. It is increasing also in Northern Canada, and is established in Baffin Land, the great island to the north of Hudson's Bay, and it opens up prospects for the use of territory which might otherwise be unproductive. There are certainly possibilities of development, and we owe to Mr. V. Stefansson and others a detailed knowledge of these north lands which makes them at once much less formidable, and their settlement practicable.

To begin with, it is not always cold even in the Arctic regions of the American continent. It is, indeed, sometimes exceedingly warm. True, there is a winter of six months, but there is also a wonderful summer, and there are vast prairies covered with grass. Of use for what? Not cattle or sheep, certainly, for these creatures could not stand the cold without artificial shelter, and the provision of such is not a practicable measure. But it is here that the reindeer, an animal which has been domesticated since history began, and which is a native of the Arctic, thrives without shelter. There is the possibility of reindeer-breeding growing into a great and important industry.

*The Arctic Climate*

The climate of the Arctic is much misunderstood. During Stefansson's Arctic expeditions from 1913 to 1918 the lowest temperature recorded (in the winter of 1915–16) was forty-six degrees below zero, which does not exceed the degrees of frost recorded in certain parts of New York State.

The question of cold is clearly not the bar to life in the Arctic; it is a question of settlement, social organisation, and, above all, of food. And during large parts of the year the climate in the Arctic is delightful, as the following quotation from Stefansson's *Northward Course of Empire* shows:

"On the Coppermine River, north of the Great Bear Lake, about fifty miles north of the Arctic Circle, I remember one period of three weeks when there was not a cloud in the sky, the sun beat down upon us the twenty-four hours through, and the heat rose to nearly ninety degrees in the shade every afternoon, without dropping lower than sixty degrees or seventy degrees at night. Those three weeks were certainly equal in opportunity for plant growth to six weeks in Texas, and they were by no means the whole summer. Undoubtedly temperature has an effect upon rapidity of growth, but still, sunlight as light rather than heat seems to be the main factor. The mosquitoes that came out early in May divided their reign with the sandflies, that did not cease tormenting us till September.

"Then it is to be remembered that grass does not ordinarily spend all the summer in growing. Most plants grow only for a few weeks, and then ripen and turn yellow. From the point of view of grazing animals, they may be nourishing and valuable the whole year though they grow for only a few weeks or months. It is obvious, then, that the northern summer is amply long enough for the development of the wild forage plants. This is one of the considerations which show that the north is the greatest potential grazing area of the world."

In 1919 a Royal Commission was appointed at Ottawa, capital of the Dominion of Canada, to investigate the possibilities of the reindeer and musk-ox industries in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, with a view to making the far northern prairies producers of meat on a commercial scale. The result of the Commission's findings was to support the idea of the practicability of settlement in the Far North as set forth by Stefansson and others.

Among other misconceptions that have made the Far North appear so singularly unattractive is that of the barrenness of the land. It is often assumed that not only is it always very cold, but that there is nothing for either man or animals to eat. But this is not so. The northern half of Canada is, in fact, a vast pasture-land, second only in area to that in Siberia and Russia, being of an area of over one and a half million square miles. This is an area equal to about half that of the United States, and while in some places there are mountains and rocky hills, and in others alkali flats without vegetation, and in others forests, the main part of the area is a gigantic prairie, which makes the grazing area of the Argentine or Texas seem insignificant in comparison. These prairie-lands extend, not only over the mainland, but also over the islands to the north. And investigations by the United States Government in Alaska have shown that on these prairies the amount of grasses and flowering plants is far in excess of that of mosses.

*The Land of Pioneers and Settlers*

Without, however, considering the fascinating subject of Arctic settlement itself, there is a vast territory in Northern Canada still to be opened up. And beyond the great area of farming land, which will be conquered by an alliance of the pioneering spirit and modern scientific agriculture which has created the Garnet wheat, lie the illimitable prairies of the Far North and their still untested possibilities. Nor is this all. For in the northern land is the attraction of gold, of oil, of other minerals, and the very remunerative possibilities of fur-farming. Let us trust that the men who will carry on this pioneering work will be of British stock.

But for most of Canada it is not pioneers who are wanted. It is settlers in a land already brought within the reach of civilisation. And the arm of civilisation stretches farther now than it did twenty-five years ago. For the settler in his little shack by the big bluff, on the top of which the Indian still watches as did his ancestors for uncounted generations, may have installed in his shack a wireless set that brings him news from all the world, a telephone that keeps him in touch with the nearest railway station, and by it a shelter which will cover his Ford car against the time he needs it to take himself or his wife to visit a neighbour or to visit a department store,

while before that settler's children there stretches a prospect of life of a kind out of reach and impossible in Europe. Whatever capacity the young Canadian has in him, that will life in Canada give him the opportunity to show. In Great Britain the settler may have been a docker, a farm labourer, younger son of an ancient family, or a clerk with his heart sickened by the daily drudgery of every-day desk routine. But Canada will not reckon these things in offering his child its chances in the new land. If the child of the docker is fit for Cabinet rank, he will become a Minister of Government; if the son of the titled family is fit only for day labour, he will become a farmer's help; for all careers are open, and all are equally honourable. Minister, capitalist, engineer, doctor, judge—Canada takes for the posts the men who can fill them. And in building up the prosperity and greatness of Canada the settler is building the prosperity and greatness of the Empire, for this world-federation of Dominions grows in strength and value to the world by the growth of its son- and daughter-nations. The future of Canada is greatness; the mightiest chapters of its history will be written in the twentieth century, and the settlers of to-day will make history for all time, and prosperity and contentment and an honourable place in the world for themselves.

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